**AUDITION SIDE #11: NED & ARTHUR**

NED Do you think it’ll work? Do you think people will believe I’m… not that bright?

ARTHUR There is not a doubt in my mind.

NED But if they think I’m stupid, will they still support my ideas?

ARTHUR This is what we’ve learned, Ned: If they like you, they’ll support whatever comes out of your mouth. And they already like you. When asked if they would invite you to their backyard barbeque, 64% of respondents said yes, provided you stayed clear of open flames.

NED If pretending I can’t do my job… let’s me do my job… Wait, is that the plan?

ARTHUR You don’t have to pretend you can’t do your job. You’re the Governor, nobody knows what your job is. You just need to seem like you don’t know what your job is either.

NED So I should seem… confused?

ARTHUR Oh my god, yes! Could you look any more confused? Oh! Okay, yes you can! I tell you, Governor, you’re god’s gift to modern politics.

NED I am?

ARTHUR Oh wow, that’s even more confused. You’re gonna make me cry. I’ve got a friend who’s the news director at your local Channel 3, he’s sending someone over here at one o’clock this afternoon. It’s your call, Governor, what do you say? Shall we give it a shot?

NED Part of me really doesn’t want to, but…

ARTHUR Was that a yes?... Let’s get to work! Paige I want you to set up focus groups, all across the state. I want us watching the people while they’re watching the interview, get their reactions in real time. Governor, you and I are going to do a little rehearsing. Get you comfortable with “Ned Newley: Simple man.”

NED Um…

ARTHUR Who’m I kidding? You’re already there. I’ll tell you something my friend. I’ve spent a lot of days thinking maybe it was time for me to get out of the game. The victories were too few, and the losses were too hard, you know? But deep down, I had a hope. That somewhere out there was a candidate who could inspire me once again. An unknown. A fresh face. The new face of American politics!

NED That… that doesn’t sound like my face.

ARTHUR No. That *is* the face, Governor. That is the face of a winner.